

# H. G. Wells Society



*H. G. Wells in 1943.*

There have been two groups called the H.G. Wells Society, both set up to support the ideas of **Herbert George Wells** (1866–1946).

## 1 1930s Group

The first “H.G. Wells Society” was set up in 1934 to promote Wells’ political ideas. Its members included **Gerald Heard**, **Olaf Stapledon**, **Sylvia Pankhurst**, **Eden Paul** <sup>[1]</sup> and **Vera Brittain**. <sup>[2]</sup> The group later changed its name to “Cosmopolis”, then the “Open Conspiracy”. In 1936 it merged with the **Federation of Progressive Societies and Individuals**.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2 Later Group

The later **H.G. Wells Society**, founded in 1960, is an international association composed of people interested in the life, work and thought of Wells and encouraging a wider interest in his writings and ideas.<sup>[2]</sup> The Society has published a comprehensive **bibliography** of Wells’s published works, and has printed the following other publications, several of which were works by Wells which had

previously been out of print for many years:

- H. G. Wells, *The Last Books of H. G. Wells: The Happy Turning and Mind at the End of its Tether*, ed. **G. P. Wells** (1982).
- H.G. Wells Society, *A Comprehensive Bibliography*, foreword by **Kingsley Martin** (1985).
- H. G. Wells, *The Discovery of the Future with The Commonsense of World Peace and The Human Adventure*, ed. **Patrick Parrinder** (1989).
- H. G. Wells, *Select Conversations with an Uncle (Now Extinct) with Two Hitherto Unreprinted Conversations*, ed. **David C. Smith** and **Patrick Parrinder**, foreword by **Michael Foot** (1992).
- **John Hammond**, *The H.G. Wells Society: A Short History* (2000).
- H.G. Wells, *The Betterave Papers*, ed. **John Hammond** (2001).
- **James Dilloway**, *Human Rights and World Order*, 2nd edn (1998).

The Society’s objective is “to promote and encourage universally an active interest in, and appreciation of, the life, work and thought of Herbert George Wells”.

Its specific aims are:

- To encourage a greater interest in the works of H.G. Wells on the part of **publishing, press** and **broadcasting** organisations.
- To promote a wider knowledge of the **ideas** and **ideals** of H.G. Wells and to assist in promoting their understanding and **dissemination**.
- To organise **lectures, meetings** and **conferences**, to issue **publications**, and to engage in such other **educational** work as will assist towards the realisation of the Society’s aims.

Each year the Society organises a September conference where aspects of Wells’s life and work are discussed. All members receive a triannual **newsletter** and an annual **journal**, entitled *The Wellsian*.

Over the years, the Society has accumulated a substantial **collection** of **books** and **pamphlets** by Wells, and an

archive of press cuttings relating to Wells. In 2012 the Society donated 160 volumes from its collection to enhance the *H.G. Wells Collection* at *Senate House Library*, University of London. The Society is also closely associated with the Wells Collections at the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* and *Bromley Central Library*, South London, the former being the repository of the Wells papers.

The Society was founded by Dr. John Hammond, who served as president for many years. It has also boasted a number of distinguished vice-presidents through the years including *Arthur C. Clarke*, *Michael Foot*, *Brian Aldiss*, *Christopher Priest* and *Stephen Baxter*.

### 3 References

- [1] David C. Smith, *H.G. Wells: Desperately Mortal : A Biography*. Yale University Press, 1988 (p. 332-333)
- [2] John S. Partington, *The Wellsian: selected essays on H.G. Wells*. Equilibris Publishing, 2003. ISBN 9059760018, (p. 10-12).

### 4 Sources

- Information leaflets & Newsletters published by the *H. G. Wells Society*
- *The Wellsian*, official journal, annually published by the *H. G. Wells Society*

### 5 See also

- *H. G. Wells*
- Science fiction
- Invasion literature
- Fabian Society
- List of Socialists
- Cosmotheism (disambiguation)
- Noosphere
- Omega Point

### 6 External links

- *H. G. Wells Society*
- *The Wellsian*, the journal of the *H. G. Wells Society*

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